



**Testimony for SB 27**

**Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

**Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee**

**President  
Tanja Brekke**

**Vice President  
Sara Marie**

**Treasurer  
Carol-Lynne Toleno**

**Secretary  
Kara Burpee**

**Executive Representative  
Mary Bertagnolli**

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and fellow Bozeman resident. Members of the Committee, my name is Tanja Brekke, a Bozeman resident and a businesswoman with an acupuncture and oriental medicine practice on Willson Avenue. I am serving my sixth and final year as President of the Montana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Passage and approval of SB 27 is our highest priority for this legislative session and we thank you for hearing us today. We very much appreciate Senator Christine Kaufmann sponsoring SB 27 on our behalf.

Acupuncturists have been licensed through the Board of Medical Examiners since 1974. We have paid our license fees, but our only representation on the BOME has been by a liaison, without any voting privileges. We wish to have a voting seat on the BOME, as do all other professionals that are represented by a professional board. The BOME has encouraged acupuncturists to take this important step. We thank the Board for testifying on behalf of SB 27 and Pat Bollinger for representing the Board today.

Minimal costs associated with this change will be covered by our licensing and renewal fees. We have about 150 active licensed acupuncturists, which means the cost will be approximately \$25 per person per year. Our professional association supports this increase.

It takes a minimum of four years of post-bachelor study and over 2,000 hours of education to sit for the acupuncture licensing exam. An additional two years of study is required for a doctoral degree, which many of us have completed. Acupuncture is a well established form of medical care and a viable adjunct to western medical practices.

We strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 27 and to adopt the amendment offered by the sponsor, with our support, as well as support from the BOME.

Thank you.

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